

Reviews.

DE L'EPILEPSIE JACKSONIENNE. Memoire couronne par la Société de Médecine et de Chirurgie de Bordeaux. Par le Dr. E. Rolland, Medecin des Asiles " John Bost " de Laforce (Dudogne).

JACKSONIAN EPILEPSY. By Dr. E. Rolland, Physician to the " John Bost " Asylum. Published by the Progrès Médical, 1888, pp. 181, with preface and 24 illustrations.

Dr. Rolland's work is the first monograph to appear on the subject of Jacksonian epilepsy. Since Hughlings Jackson, in 1863, published his minute and interesting observations on the disease which now bears his name, several other close observers, especially Fournier, Franck and Pitres, and Luciani, have studied the subject from anatomical and pathological standpoints; but until the present work appeared, no one has attempted to collect the results obtained, to classify them, and to formulate the conclusions which must necessarily be deduced by the careful study of the large number of cases Dr. Rolland has collected.

As physician to the " John Bost " Asylum, where many epileptics are confined, Dr. Rolland has had exceptional facilities for studying epilepsy in all of its forms. The first chapter of the work is devoted to a brief summary of the anatomy and physiology of the cerebral convolutions, especially the so-called motor convolutions, and is accompanied by the usual illustrations seen in all text-books which treat of this subject. It is but a slight sketch, and is simply introduced to show that the well-known experiments on cerebral localization on the lower animals are fully in accord with the pathological developments which produce the symptoms classified under the title of Jacksonian epilepsy.

The symptomatology of the disease is clearly and concisely set forth in a number of minutely described cases, several of which

came under the author's personal observation. The description of the attacks are models of what such observations should be.

Under the heading of Pathological Anatomy and Physiology, the author has tabulated one hundred and twelve cases, arranged into five groups depending upon the localization of the spasm. In all of these cases the pathological lesion was discovered. A study of these cases goes to show that, while in a large majority of them the lesion was located in the cortex on one or both sides of the fissure of Rolando, in a small number the lesion was found either in the central gray nuclei (two cases) or else in the white substance of the occipital, temporal, and temporo-sphenoidal lobes (five cases). The differential features between the usual and the unusual types are made apparent in the tables.

In regard to the treatment, the author has nothing new to suggest. The operative measures instituted by Horsley are commended as affording the best means of relief, except in syphilitic cases, where, of course, specific treatment is advocated.

Though the volume, as a whole, presents few new features, yet Rolland's work is to be commended for the thorough and exhaustive manner in which the subject is treated.